Poverty Alleviation Programme

*92. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recommended a provision of Rs. 2500 crores for poverty alleviation programmes as suggested in the resolutions passed by the All India Congress Committee; if so, what would be the size of the 1989-90 plan as against that of 1988-89;

(b) whether the Commission has also sought additional budgetary support for the on-going projects in 1989-90 plan; if so, what are the requirements and what was the budgetary support for the central sector plan 1988-89; and

(c) whether the Ministry have taken up the matter with the Finance Ministry and the Prime Minister, if so, in what form and what is the reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission has proposed outlays for the various poverty alleviation programmes in the Annual Plan (Central) 1989-90. However, the exact size and content of the Annual Plan (Central) for 1989-90 would be known at the time of announcement of Budget provisions which is scheduled for this evening.

Maternal and infant mortality rate

*93. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present maternal and infant mortality rate in the country;

(b) what steps have been taken to bring down the maternal and infant mortality rate;

(c) whether any comprehensive programme has been undertaken by Government to improve the health of the mother and the child; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (d) No national figures regarding maternal mortality are available at present. Studies undertaken by Indian Council of Medical Research as well as Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Society of India indicate maternal mortality rate ranging from 4 to 7 per thousand live births. According to WHO Bulletin of Regional Health Information, 1984-85, the Maternal Mortality Rate in India is 3-4 per thousand live births. The latest estimate of infant mortaliy rate at the national level as obtained from the Sample Registration System of Registrar General of India is 95 (provisional) per thousand live birth for the year 1987.

Government have taken steps to implement a package of activities as part of the State sector plans and as Centrally sponsored schemes for setting up a network of primary health care institutions in rural areas, training of medical and para-medical health workers (both male and female), training of traditional birth attendants and supplying them with delivery kits. With the esablishment of subcentre and placement of one female health worker for every 5000 rural population in general areas and 3000 rural population in tribal, hilly and backward wards, the availability of ante-natal, intra-natal and post-natal care will improve. The workers have been trained and advised to identify and refer the cases at risk to the competent medical personnel or institution. The expansion of Post-Partum Scheme under Family Welfare Programme and intensification of schemes for immunization, oral rehydration therapy, supplementary nutrition under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and prophylaxis against nutritional anaemia are some of the other steps taken by Government to bring down maternal and infant mortality rates.